



So You're Interested In Starting a Neighborhood Watch?



*Know
Your
Neighbor*

*Home
Security*

*Personal
Safety*

*Sense
Of
Community*

Welcome to Neighborhood Watch.

Right at about this point, you're probably asking yourself, "What am I getting myself into?" Well, let me tell you.

This first step is one of the most important ones you'll take, in respect to your neighborhood. You're not only looking out for your safety and security, but that of your neighbor's as well. Congratulations! You're on your way to becoming a "good neighbor!"

Now let's get started.

The benefits of Neighborhood Watch.

- ◆ Improved livability.
- ◆ A team concept of neighbors working together.
- ◆ Knowing your neighbors and looking out for one another.
- ◆ Improved home security.
- ◆ Establishing ongoing communications with the Sanford Police Department.
- ◆ Making your neighborhood safer
- ◆ Information about available resources and services.



How To Organize A Neighborhood Watch

Step One: Getting Started

- ◆ Determine the area you want to organize. This should be the area you consider your “neighborhood.” Groups range in size from 5 to 250 households. The larger the area, the greater the protection.
- ◆ Find neighbors to assist you. These people will form your initial group of Neighborhood Watch Volunteers. One person per 8 to 10 households. Determine the best night of the week for a presentation. Fridays and weekends are not recommended.



Step Two: Making phone calls

- ◆ Call the Sanford Police Department Crime Prevention Coordinator, Wendy Dorival, 407.688.5070 ext 6008. Presentations in Spanish are also available.
- ◆ Arrange for a meeting location close to your neighborhood such as a school, church or other public meeting place. It should have enough room to hold your invited neighbors and for the use of audio visual aids such as an overhead projector. Presentations are usually held from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.



Step Three: Invite your neighbors

- ◆ Distribute the invitations at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting. The most effective way to do this is to ask neighborhood volunteers to hand deliver them to all the neighbors and try to get commitments from them to attend. Get names and phone numbers if possible to make reminder calls a few days before the meeting.
- ◆ Distribute a meeting “reminder” notice 3 days before the meeting or make personal phone calls.

Step Four: Prepare a neighborhood map

- ◆ Prepare a neighborhood area or a plat map showing names, phone numbers and street number of each household. Plat maps are available from the Planning Department at City Hall.

◆ Step Five: The Presentation

- ◆ Plan for 1½ to 2 hour presentation. At the presentation you will:
 1. Identify concerns and develop an action plan
 2. Learn crime prevention techniques such as home security, personal safety and Operation Identification.
 3. Learn how to report suspicious activity.
 4. Meet your neighbors and establish a communication network (telephone tree).
 5. Recruit your Coordinator and Block Captains.
 6. Order Neighborhood Watch signs.



Step Six: Maintenance

- ◆ Once your neighborhood has been organized, maintaining interest in Neighborhood Watch is important. It's too easy for us to forget to keep that vigilance we thought was so important in the beginning. Some groups maintain interest by planning neighborhood outings, meetings, summer picnics and passing out a Neighborhood Watch Newsletter every month.